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COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health Professions

Board of Nursing

September 3, 1998

Nancy K. Durrett, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director
of the Board
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Virginia Kanyan
4252 Berritt Street
Fairfax, VA 22030

Dear Ms. Kanyan:

Enclosed is a copy of an excerpt from the law containing the definitions of professional nursing. Note the underlined phrase which states that nursing includes "the administration of medications and treatment as prescribed by any person authorized by law to prescribe such medications and treatment." Since physician assistants do have such authority, on a limited basis, the registered nurse can take orders from them for treatment and for Schedule VI medications. Physician assistants may not order Schedule II through V medication.

We trust this is the information you need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy K. Durrett".

Nancy K. Durrett, R.N., M.S.N.
Executive Director

NKD/mbj

enclosure